

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 194

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to make matching contributions toward the purchase of the Sterling Forest in the State of New York, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 4, 1995

Mrs. ROUKEMA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to make matching contributions toward the purchase of the Sterling Forest in the State of New York, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 The Congress finds that—

5 (1) there is a compelling Federal interest in
6 protecting the Sterling Forest areas of the States of
7 New York and New Jersey because of their histori-
8 cal and natural significance, including the Appalach-
9 ian Trail which runs through these areas; and

1 (2) the preservation of these areas is important
2 to preserving and maintaining the local ecosystem
3 and to protecting the purity of the water supply of
4 these areas.

5 **SEC 2. MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARD ACQUISITION**
6 **OF STERLING FOREST, NEW YORK.**

7 (a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall
8 make a matching contribution to the Palisades Interstate
9 Park Commission for the acquisition of Sterling Forest
10 by the Commission, and interests in Sterling Forest by
11 the Secretary, in accordance with this section. The amount
12 of the matching contribution shall be one dollar of Federal
13 moneys for each dollar of non-Federal funds received by
14 the Commission from a non-Federal source and dedicated
15 to the acquisition of Sterling Forest. The total Federal
16 contribution under this section may not exceed
17 \$25,000,000.

18 (b) ACQUISITION ON A WILLING SELLER BASIS.—
19 Federal funds may not be used pursuant to this section
20 to purchase any portion of Sterling Forest without the
21 consent of the owner thereof.

22 (c) INTERESTS ACQUIRED BY UNITED STATES.—The
23 acquisition of Sterling Forest pursuant to this section
24 shall reserve to the United States conservation easements
25 and rights of public access in and to Sterling Forest, as

1 determined by the Secretary, equivalent to conservation
2 easements held by the United States as described in sec-
3 tion 7(k)(2) of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act
4 of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2103c(k)(2)).

5 (d) PROPERTY TAXES.—Nothing in this section shall
6 be construed to authorize the United States Government,
7 or relieve the Commission and the State of New York of
8 any obligation otherwise imposed under New York State
9 law, to pay property taxes or provide for the costs of stew-
10 ardship and management of any lands located in the State
11 of New York which may be acquired pursuant to this sec-
12 tion.

13 **SEC. 3. NEW JERSEY PORTION OF STERLING FOREST.**

14 (a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall
15 make a matching contribution to Passaic County, New
16 Jersey, toward the outstanding amount owed for the lands
17 described in subsection (b), as specified in the consent
18 judgment in the case of County of Passaic against MPS
19 Corporation, Sterling Forest Corporation and Sterling
20 Forest Development Corporation (Docket No. W-55820-
21 88) entered on September 1, 1993. The amount of the
22 matching contribution shall be one dollar of Federal mon-
23 eys for each dollar of non-Federal funds paid by Passaic
24 County, New Jersey, toward such outstanding amount.

1 (b) LANDS DESCRIBED.—The lands referred to in
2 subsection (a) are approximately 2,070 acres of lands con-
3 demned by Passaic County, New Jersey, on October 31,
4 1988, and the subject of the case referred to in subsection
5 (a).

6 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

7 For the purposes of this Act—

8 (1) the term “Sterling Forest” means the area
9 located in the New York portion of the New York-
10 New Jersey Highlands Region that comprises ap-
11 proximately 17,530 acres and is owned on the date
12 of enactment of this Act by the Sterling Forest Cor-
13 poration;

14 (2) the term “Commission” means the Pali-
15 sades Interstate Park Commission established by
16 interstate compact (Chapter 170 of the Laws of
17 1937 of the State of New York; Chapter 148 of the
18 Laws of 1937 of the State of New Jersey) and ap-
19 proved in 1937 by joint resolution of the Congress
20 (Chapter 706; 50 Stat. 719); and

21 (3) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary
22 of the Interior.

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